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August 30, 2019

RECEIVED SEP 09 2019

Ms. Natalie Creed  
Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706

**RE: US Ecology Idaho (USEI) Site B – IDD073114654**  
*August Monthly Progress Report on Recovery Actions Related to the November 17, 2018 Explosion at the USEI Site B Facility ("Incident")*

Dear Ms. Creed:

As requested in IDEQ's letter dated December 18, 2018, USEI is hereby submitting the monthly progress report for August 2019. This report details the activities undertaken in the recovery process for the month of August. This report covers activities from July 29 through August 23, 2019. The next report will cover activities from August 26 through September 20, 2019.

Throughout the month USEI has performed various operations to evaluate the facility and bring it back to a state of compliance following the Incident. The actions taken during the month are outlined below.

After receiving approval from IDEQ on February 7, 2019, USEI began receiving loads of bulk material for direct landfill on February 8, 2019. During April, USEI provided IDEQ with a PE certification for the Stabilization Facility as well as a certification that all ancillary equipment needed for solidification operations was available. IDEQ subsequently provided an authorization, dated April 11, 2019, allowing USEI to resume solidification operations at the Outdoor Stabilization Facility. On May 31, 2019, USEI provided IDEQ with an additional Class 2 Permit Modification and Request for Temporary Authorization (RTA) to undertake hazardous waste treatment operations. IDEQ provided approval for the RTA in a letter dated June 6, 2019. At this time USEI is receiving limited quantities of hazardous waste for treatment, storage, and/or disposal. The first shipments of hazardous waste for treatment were received on June 17, 2019. USEI continues to receive both containers and bulk loads of waste for treatment and disposal.

**Inspections** – Inspections have been performed and documented as required; any area that could not be inspected due to structural damage or due to other safety factors was noted on the inspection form. At this time all areas have been placed into a safe configuration. Since containers are not being stored and waste is not being treated within the Containment Building, USEI will inspect the area on a weekly basis, at a minimum. All other inspection schedules will remain unchanged. A memo will be placed in the operating record explaining the weekly inspection schedule.





**Leachate Management** – USEI has completed leachate inspections and removed accumulated leachate as required. Removed leachate has been filtered through the leachate treatment system and has been discharged to site surface impoundments for evaporation. Leachate levels for all areas continue to be in keeping with levels associated with normal operations.


**Precipitation** – Collected precipitation has been monitored and removed from container storage and RCRA tank areas as needed. All precipitation removed from these areas is discharged to the site surface impoundments for evaporation.

Collected precipitation from the Indoor Stabilization facility was collected on August 2, 2019, and added to Tank #2. A minimal amount of water is stored in Tank #2 at this time. No additional precipitation was removed during the current reporting period.

**Container Management** – Containers that became damaged or degraded as a result of the Incident are being managed appropriately by being covered, repackaged, overpacked, or batched and treated as needed. USEI continues to work through the inventory of containers that were onsite at the time of the incident. These older containers are being sampled as needed, placed into batches and treated. Since use of the Pad 7 building was approved in July, USEI has moved containers of retail waste packaged in fiber boxes back into the building and has repackaged and consolidated many degraded containers. USEI has prepared and shipped loads of containers off-site to continue decreasing the container inventory on site. Since the last report, one load of material was shipped off-site to US Ecology in Beatty, NV.

**Evidence Material** – Evidence from the Incident remains in secure storage at Container Storage Area 1 (CSA 1) at this time. This includes tagged debris pieces, various split samples that have been collected, empty drums from the back of the haul truck at the Containment Building, containers of burnt magnesium (WSID # 29857-0) and floor sweeps (WSID # 29853-0), overpack drums of magnesium fines (the material involved in the explosion, WSID # 29856-0), and drums of material retrieved from the bottom of MBT 1 prior to decontamination of the Containment Building. All remaining containers of magnesium material from Reade Manufacturing Company, the company whose waste stream was being treated when the explosion occurred, remain on site at this time.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)



Baker Risk received analytics for all samples collected, and determined the cause of the Incident. The final investigation report was completed July 22, 2019, and a full copy of the report was provided to DEQ on July 31, 2019. USEI has requested that this information remain confidential until external investigations being conducted by various agencies are complete.



**Cleanup Material** – USEI's contractor JC Constructors, Inc. began demolition of the Containment Building structure on July 15, 2019. Small amounts of metal and foam debris have been generated as a result. These materials have been placed into bins and are currently in storage at CSA 1. Small amounts of material outside the footprint of the Containment Building are cleaned up as they are identified. Foam material that fell into the footprint of the building during demolition was swept up, containerized and placed into storage for later treatment.

USEI has continued monitoring the area outside the fence for additional foam material. No additional material was identified during the last inspection of the fence. Small amounts of additional material continue to be picked up as they are identified. USEI personnel will continue monitoring the fence line on a weekly basis to ensure material is not exiting the facility.

**Facility Structures** – The Containment Building sustained major damage in the Incident and will need to be repaired/rebuilt. Demolition of the steel structure of the Containment Building began on July 15, 2019. Final removal of all structural steel was completed on August 12, 2019. Further evaluation of the integrity of the Debris Side containment is still needed. The date for removal of the concrete containment and Mix Bin Tanks from the Stabilization Side of the Containment Building is unknown at this time. The Mix Bin Tanks are covered at this time.

Portions of the chain link fencing were removed from the east side of the Containment Building to facilitate demolition activities. Fencing along the road near the former administration building complex, and the secured area in CSA 1 remains intact.

The site vehicle wash building was removed January 8, 2019. Water to the truck wash area was restored on January 16, 2019. Up to January 16, 2019 a portable water source was needed to operate the pressure washer. The contract for reconstruction of the Truck Wash building has been awarded to Bideganeta Construction, Inc. of Mountain Home, ID. The building permit has been approved, but construction has not begun at this time. Construction of the truck wash building is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2019.

The site water system was partially evaluated/repared on January 16, 2019. Broken lines at the administration/decon areas were capped during the evaluation and repaired on January 16. All water tanks were thickness-tested on February 6, 2019 and found to be functional. Water to the Outdoor Stabilization Facility was restored April 19, 2019. USEI has received a quote for reconstruction of the Pump House building. USEI's insurance adjuster has given their approval to proceed with the rebuild of the building. This project has also been awarded to Bideganeta Construction. The project start date is unknown at this time.

The site decontamination facilities and field tech office were damaged during the Incident and had to be removed along with other buildings in the administration complex. USEI has awarded the contract for construction of a new decontamination building, to be located near the location of the previous men's decontamination facility, and a new field tech office, to be located in the location of the old receiving/laboratory building, to Bideganeta Construction as well. The decontamination facility project began July 15, 2019, and will continue until completed. The start date for the field tech office is unknown at this time.



The Outdoor Stabilization Facility office is currently being used to house the fingerprint lab in the near term. The new laboratory building will be located south of the main administration office in the new office complex, located near the main gate. Manufacture of the lab building is complete and the building will be in place prior to the next reporting period.

A portable shower/toilet unit located in the temporary administration trailer area was put into service on January 10, 2019. The unit contains four separate shower/toilet/sink stations. An additional unit with men's and women's restroom stations (toilets/sinks only) is present in the area and is functional.

**Facility Personnel** – Since USEI's last report two team members have accepted work with USEI. An updated facility employee list is included with this letter.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter or require additional information, please call me or Rebecca Hogaboam at (208) 834-2275.

Regards,



Jason Evens  
General Manager

cc: Barbara McCullough, EPA Region 10  
Albert Crawshaw, IDEQ  
Peter Purchase, IDEQ  
Brian Gaber, IDEQ  
Garrett Bright, IDEQ  
Andrew Marshall, USE

Enclosure



Team Member	Hire Date	Title			
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#### Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facility

1	BAILEY, NOEL	12/29/2003	Technical Manager
2	CERECERES, TINO	5/15/2006	Approvals Coordinator
3	CLARK, DAVID	4/8/2013	Customer Service Specialist
4	CLARK, SHILO	9/17/2018	Receiving Coordinator
5	EVENS, JASON	3/6/2017	General Manager
6	GRINDE-ASH, SHARON	6/24/2019	Lab Tech
7	HALL, STEPHANIE	6/1/2006	Chemist
8	HARLAN, RACHEL	9/4/2018	Receiving Coordinator
9	HOGABOAM, REBECCA	6/1/2015	EH&S Compliance Manager
10	JENSEN, JUSTIN	2/16/2015	Rad Safety Specialist
11	LAWSON, AYL A	8/21/2017	Receiving Coordinator
12	LAWSON, DEVANI	10/22/2007	Lab Tech
13	LIVINGSTON, SOPHIE	7/21/2008	Transportation Clerk
14	LUTRELL, JENNIFER	12/8/2014	Customer Service Specialist
15	MAGERS, JUDITH	6/14/2006	Office Administrator
16	SCHMITZ, CORIAN	2/28/2005	Receiving Lead
17	SCHWAGER, ELIZABETH	4/26/2010	HR Generalist
18	SIMPER, KARLITA	6/13/2011	EH&S Compliance Specialist
19	BORGEN, SHANDA	7/22/2019	Security Guard
1	ALLISON, DALTON	7/1/2019	Processing Technician
2	BIRMINGHAM, JACK	5/12/2003	Operations Supervisor
3	BYBEE, BRIGHAM	7/8/2019	Operator
4	CHRISTIANSEN, RICK	8/2/1992	Sr Operator
5	CUTLER, ROBERT	8/26/2010	Senior Operator
6	FERRELL, CASEY	8/19/2002	Lead Operator - landfill
7	HAZELL, LEE	7/25/2011	Operator
8	HERRERA, FREDY	1/11/2016	Operator
9	IRELAND, JOSEPH	9/28/2007	Mechanic
10	JUSTIS, JENNINGS	7/1/2019	Operator
11	LEONARD, CHET	5/1/2006	Senior Operator
12	LINDQUIST, ROBERT	9/1/1999	Mechanic Supervisor
13	PERRY, MORGEN	7/15/2002	Operator
14	POLLARD, RICKEY	4/15/1987	Operator
15	ROBERSON, KENNETH	9/6/1988	Operations Manager
16	ROGERS, BENJAMIN	6/20/2006	Operator
17	WHITEAR, BRIAN	7/1/2019	Operator
18	WHITTED, DALE	6/28/2005	Mechanic
19	WILSON, DANIEL	1/17/2011	Senior Operator
20	WOODRUFF, DANE	10/31/2005	Operator
21	O'BRYANT, PATRICK	7/22/2019	Operator

#### Rail Facility

1	HASTINGS, JONNY	7/16/2018	Mechanic
2	LOPES, JOAO	9/4/2007	Operator
3	MONASTERIO, JOSH	7/25/2005	Lead Operator
4	MORENO, ANDREW	12/2/1996	Rail Foreman
5	SPENCER, JUSTIN	9/25/2007	RTF Operations Supervisor
6	WININGS, ANDY	7/25/2011	Operator

1	Jim Handcock
2	Bruce Cameron

Field Services, RAD	Casual worker
Field Services, RAD	Casual worker

40 @ TSDF  
48 TOTAL

\*updated AUGUST 2019